

**4523 Wall Street
Bellingham, WA 98226-5102**

January 22, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Thank you for your support of the settlement of the Microsoft antitrust case. You have broad support in this decision across the country. Forty-one states want no further action against Microsoft: 32 states that did not think a suit was reasonable, and 9 states that sued and then agreed to the settlement.

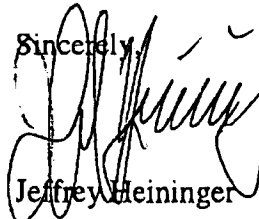
Why should our government continually try to shoot down the pacesetters and trendsetters of our nation? Why have a governmental bias against private enterprise, when private enterprise is the foundation of our prosperity? The AT&T and IBM suits were unproductive. Now Microsoft. Microsoft has carried the flag, opened the door, and got a foothold, for American technology companies worldwide.

I have a business in the automobile accessories industry. I previously was in the home video business. I know that there was once a competition between the VHS and Beta tape formats. That battle was won by VHS because it was more open to industry partners than was Sony with its closely held Beta. The situation is similar to the contest between the Intel-Microsoft PC industry and Apple and its closely held Macintosh. Intel and Microsoft won because they encouraged widespread participation, which encourages widespread adoption.

Microsoft does not act alone; it has been smart in attracting partners to build strength into the industry. Now, with the settlement, Microsoft has agreed to be work constructively with others by revealing internal information about Windows and allowing computer makers and users to remove access to Windows technologies in favor of rival software. By making it easier for competitors to write and promote their software, Microsoft is doing all it can to end the litigation.

I support their efforts and hope you do too. Thank you for your leadership for a strong America.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Heining